

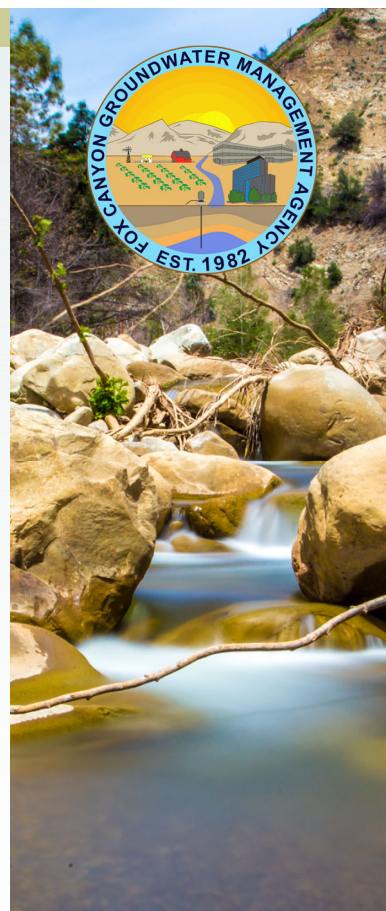
Semi-Annual Newsletter

New Pumping Allocation System for Las Posas Valley Basins

The FCGMA Board adopted an ordinance establishing a new pumping allocation system for the Las Posas Valley (LPV) Basin at a December 14, 2020, public hearing. The new allocations go into effect on October 1, 2021. The ordinance rescinds the allocation systems and the IAI reporting requirement in Emergency Ordinance E and Ordinance Code. The new allocation system is largely based on the proposal developed by the Las Posas Users Group (LPUG) over several years under a charter with the Agency. The LPUG charter was part of the broad stakeholder engagement process undertaken by the Agency that led to adoption of a groundwater sustainability plan for the LPV Basin under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The ordinance acknowledges the pending comprehensive groundwater adjudication for the LPV Basin and states the Board's intent to amend the ordinance consistent with water right priorities in any final judgment entered in the adjudication.

Extraction allocations are assigned to well owners/operators consistent with past FCGMA practice. Initial allocations are based on average pumping during a 5-year base period of 2009 through 2013, pumping in 2015, or minimum allocation, whichever is higher. The ordinance establishes a minimum allocation for Agricultural, Municipal & Industrial, and Domestic wells. Total Basin allocation is divided into "pools" in the East and West Las Posas Management Areas. The management area pools are further divided into pools for the Ventura County Waterworks Districts

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and all other pumpers per a stipulated agreement between the parties in the adjudication. Individual well allocations are based on the allocation share of the available yield of each management area. The ordinance also establishes reserve allocation pools in each management area for land developed after 2015.

The ordinance requires extraction reporting based on Water Year beginning on October 1 of each year through September 30 of the next year. To facilitate transition to Water Year reporting, the Board established transition allocations for the current reporting periods. The Board also included a provision in the ordinance that waives surcharges for certain extractions exceeding allocation during the first Water Year. See other articles in this edition on transition period and surcharges.

The Agency will send all registered well owners and operators notification of their initial allocation under the new ordinance. The package will include information on applying for variances, minimum allocation, and/or reserve allocation.

Transition to Water Year Reporting in the Las Posas Valley Basin

The Agency is transitioning to Water Year reporting (October through September) which is required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) Basins transitioned to Water Year reporting on October 1, 2020; the Las Posas Valley Basin begins Water Year reporting on October 1, 2021. To facilitate this transition, the Agency Board adopted an ordinance on February 24, 2021, which establishes transition allocations and reporting periods leading up to October 1, 2021. The ordinance is identical to the one implemented in the OPV Basins last year.

For agricultural operators, a special reporting period for August and September 2021 was established with allocations set at 35% of each operator's 2019/2020 efficiency allocation based on analysis of AMI data which showed that 89% of agricultural operators extracted 35% or less of their total annual extractions during these two months. For M&I operators, the ordinance sets extraction allocations for January through September 2021 at 76% of TEA based on analysis of monthly potable water production reported to the State Water Board by urban water purveyors operating in the Agency area. Similarly, domestic operators' allocation is set to 76% of their historical or baseline allocation, as applicable. July through September 2021 is a special reporting period for M&I and domestic operators.

A simplified variance process is available for operators to provide evidence of different usage during the transition period. Applications for variance to the transition allocation must be received in writing by August 31, 2021. This is a one-time allocation adjustment that will not affect the new allocations starting on October 1, 2021. Visit www.fcgma.org for more information and to view the ordinance.

Reduction of Potential for Surcharges in First Year of New Allocation Ordinances

The Agency Board adopted ordinances to reduce the potential for imposition of surcharges during the first Water

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Year of new allocation system implementation in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley (OPV) and Las Posas Valley (LPV) basins. The Board took this action in response to stakeholder concerns and to ease transition to the new allocation systems.

For Water Year 2020-21 (Oct. 1, 2020 – Sep. 30, 2021) in the OPV Basins and 2021-22 (Oct. 1, 2021 – Sep. 30, 2022) in the LPV Basin, surcharges will be imposed only if extractions exceed the greater of the new allocation or an operator's reported extractions which did not incur surcharges in calendar year 2018 for municipal and industrial and domestic operators, and in Crop Year 2017/18 for agricultural operators. The Agency will post new allocations and reported 2018 extractions at www.fcgma.org for ease of reference by operators. These ordinances and all agency ordinances are available at www.fcgma.org.

Groundwater Extraction Reporting Periods

The transition to Water Year reporting mentioned in a previous article on page 2 may cause confusion as to when to report semi-annual groundwater extractions and pay fees. Refer to the table located after this article to identify reporting period start and end dates based on year code, DWR basin and usage type. Semi-Annual Extraction Statements are released after reporting periods end. Annual Applications for Efficiency Allocation are no longer required for OPV agricultural operators however there are additional reporting requirements per Article 7 of the ordinance to establish allocation system in OPV required at the end of the Water Year. Annual Applications for Efficiency Allocation are required for the 2021-1 reporting in LPV and ASRV.

2021-1 Semi-Annual Extraction Statements

2021-1 Semi-Annual Extraction Statements (SAES) for **OPV** are available at online at the time of this publication. SAES for the 2021-1 reporting period for **LPV** and **ASRV** will be mailed and released for online reporting by the end of July 2021 or end of August 2021 for AG. All SAES will be due within 45 days of their release date.

SAES may be submitted online at www.fcgmaonline.org or mailed to this office. Printed flowmeter photos may be mailed or emailed any time before the SAES due date to: fcgma.report@ventura.org. In-person delivery only available upon official reopening of the Ventura County Government Center, following the closure due to COVID. Visit FCGMA.org for updates. Ensure the following items applicable to usage type are included prior to mailing your SAES:

2021-1 SAES

- Meter Reading at end of reporting period (includes all Active and Inactive wells, even if zero extractions)
- Signature and Date
- Operator Contact Update (Name, Address, Phone, Email)
- Annual Application for Efficiency Allocation ***LPV and ASRV ONLY***
- Crop Map ***LPV and ASRV ONLY***
- Purveyor Service Map & APN table ***LPV and ASRV ONLY***

Flowmeter Photos Labeled with:

- CombCode
- Well Number
- Meter Serial Number
- Date of Photo

Payment in Full

- Checks Payable to FCGMA with proper date & signature
- CombCode in check memo line
- Visa or Mastercard (online only)

Year Code	DWR Basin	Usage Type	Period Start	Period End
2021-1	OPV	AG, DOM & M&I	10/1/2020	3/31/2021
2021-1	LPV & ASRV	DOM & M&I	1/1/2021	6/30/2021
2021-1	LPV & ASRV	AG	1/1/2021	7/31/2021
2021-2	OPV	AG, DOM & M&I	4/1/2021	9/30/2021
2021-2	LPV & ASRV	DOM & M&I	7/1/2021	9/30/2021
2021-2	LPV & ASRV	AG	8/1/2021	9/30/2021
2022-1	OPV, LPV, ASRV	AG, DOM & M&I	10/1/2021	3/31/2022
2022-2	OPV, LPV, ASRV	AG, DOM & M&I	4/1/2022	9/30/2022

Flowmeter Readings and Photos

Flowmeter readings and flowmeter photos should be taken on the last day of each reporting period. The last days of Water Year semi-annual reporting periods for OPV are March 31 and September 30. The last days of Calendar Year semi-annual reporting periods for LPV and ASRV are June 30 (July 31 for AG) and December 31. Mark your calendars!

Operators with meters equipped with the Ranch Systems AMI (camera) are encouraged to access the User portal/Dashboard to view recent meter photos and make sure they are clear and legible for submittal. A helpful video on how to view your daily meter photos in your user portal is available on YouTube titled [Ranch Systems Photo Upload Instructions](#). If you do not have a legible photo please contact Ranch System's installation and service coordinator, Victor Luna, to come out and assist. He can be reached at vluna@ranchsystems.com or (805) 323-8554.

Operators with meters equipped with Wildeye, XiO, Pumpsight, Wiseconn, McCrometer, and Acuity Agriculture AMI, are encouraged to verify that your meter readings are being accurately reported to your corresponding AMI vendor.

*Report new Owner or Operator, updated contact information or
updated Flowmeter and AMI using forms
located at www.fcgma.org.
Click on **Forms** under **Public Documents** from homepage*

Water Market Pilot Progress

The Water Market Pilot will soon open for trading again by agricultural operators in the Oxnard Basin. The Water Market Pilot allows pumpers to sell allocation for profit or buy additional allocation to avoid surcharges. New this year Water Market participants will be on the same allocation system as non-participants. Last year's Water Market Pilot had a significant increase in participants and trading. 29 CombCodes containing 77 wells participated with 146 AF traded at an average price of \$335.14 per acre-foot.

Previous participation is not required to join the Water Market Pilot, nor is receiving the grant funded AMI. Eligible participants in the Oxnard Basin (compliance with FCGMA regulations and no unpaid fees or penalties) must return their participation agreements to get started. For details regarding the Water Market and how it functions, please see www.fcgma.org, click on the Quick Link in the top right corner of the home page labeled [AMI & Water Market](#).

OPV Variance Process Update

In accordance with Article 11 of the OPV allocation ordinance, variance applications for Water Year 2021/2022 were submitted by June 30, 2020. One hundred forty-seven applications for correction, transfer or variance were received. An initial review was performed for each application. Letters regarding the initial review, summarizing the request and providing a summary of additional information needed and/or requested, were mailed to well owners and operators in mid-January, minus a few exceptions. To keep the process moving additional information was to be submitted by approximately March 1, 2021. The anticipated next steps are to process complete applications requesting corrections of documented errors and unreported extractions for which extractions were reported to UWCD. With documented proof of well usage, remaining unreported extractions will be evaluated with fees assessed in accordance with FCGMA Board direction provided on February 26, 2020. Applications for variances will be forwarded to the Variance Review Committee followed by the Agency Board of Directors. The first meeting of the Variance Review Committee was held on April 6, 2021.

FCGMA Mission Statement

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) manages and protects both confined and unconfined aquifers within several groundwater basins underlying the southern portion of Ventura County. The FCGMA is an independent special district, separate from the County of Ventura or any city government. It was created by the California Legislature in 1982 to oversee Ventura County's vital groundwater resources. The Agency is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Las Posas Valley Basin and the majority of the Oxnard Subbasin and the Pleasant Valley Basin.

The boundary covers 183 square miles, and all lands lying above the deep Fox Canyon aquifer account for more than half of the water needs for over 700,000 residents in the cities of Ventura, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Camarillo, and Moorpark, plus the unincorporated communities of Saticoy, El Rio, Somis, Moorpark Home Acres, Nyeland Acres, Point Mugu and Montalvo.

Our offices are located at Watershed Protection Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration.

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Assistant Agency Counsel

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Dolores Conlin
Compliance Specialist

Kathy Jones
Business Process Coordinator

Christine Dalida
Management Assistant II

Frances Tamayo
Office Assistant IV



2020-2021 Adopted Ordinances and Resolutions

The Board adopted an ordinance at the March 24, 2021 meeting, to exempt domestic operators, who extract two acre-feet or less per year, from the requirement that flowmeters be equipped with AMI.

The Board adopted an ordinance to establish a new groundwater extraction allocation system for the Las Posas Valley Basin. The ordinance replaces the current extraction allocations established under the Agency Ordinance Code and Emergency Ordinance E and will become effective October 1, 2021.

The Board adopted Resolution 2020-05 at the October 28, 2020 meeting, imposing a fee of \$20.00 per acre-foot (AF) on groundwater extractions to establish a reserve fund to be used to pay the cost and expenses of legal actions and proceedings related to implementation of the Agency's groundwater sustainability program.

The Board adopted Resolution 2020-07 at the December 2, 2020 meeting, establishing an increased tiered groundwater extraction surcharge rates, effective January 1, 2021.

To learn more visit www.fcgma.org, select [Ordinances](#) and click link to [Active Ordinances](#) or select [Resolutions](#) and scroll to bottom and click link to [2020-05](#) and [2020-07](#).

Per Resolution 2020-07 Increased Surcharge Rates:

Tier I: One to 25.000 AF = \$1,549.00 per AF

Tier II: 25.001 AF to 99.999 AF = \$1,799.00 per AF

Tier III: 100 AF or more = \$2,049.00 per AF

No Cost Ranch AMI Upgrade for AG Operators

Funds are still available in the Natural Resources Conservation Services Grant through The Nature Conservancy for upgrading the Ranch Systems AMI previously installed through the grant. An additional level of data to provide finer resolution for analysis of irrigation system performance, such as plotting both the daily totals and the gallons per minute on a 15-minute time scale can be achieved with the pulse output reading upgrade. Combined with the optical reader these options work together to support both the Water Market and provide the necessary intelligence for irrigation and water management decisions. If you had Ranch Systems installed and are interested in a pulse output reading upgrade contact Ranch Systems. This funding will not last long. [Ranch Systems, Terrence Jones, tjones@ranchsystems.com, (415) 408-5613 if you need assistance.]

FCGMA 2021 Board Meeting Calendar

The Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency (FCGMA) has scheduled Board regular meetings for calendar year 2021 according to the following table. Board meetings are held on the fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month except as noted below.

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION
January 27 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
February 24 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
March 24 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
April 28 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
May 26 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
June 23 rd	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
July 28 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
August 25 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
September 22 nd	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
October 27 th	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
November (DARK) ¹	NONE		
December 1 st	Wednesday	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room

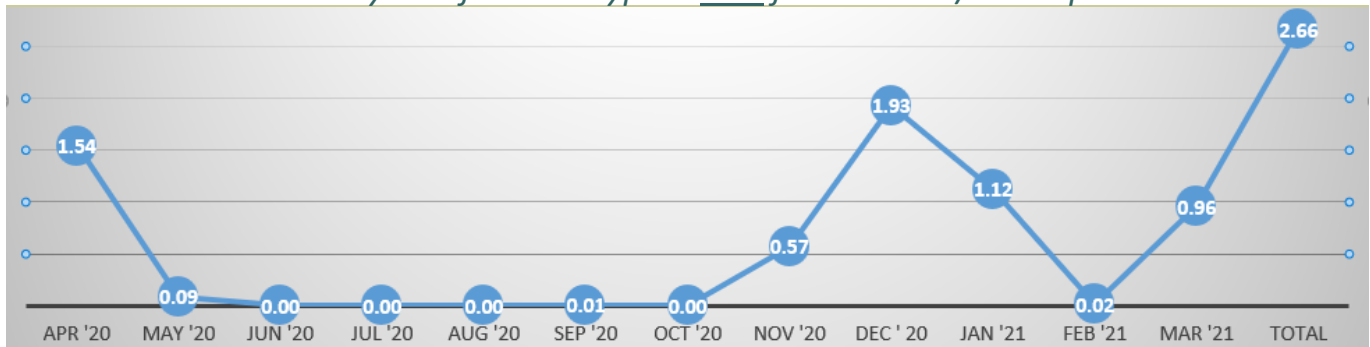
The following exceptions or alterations may be necessary:

- 1. The November and December meetings are typically combined to accommodate various holiday schedules.*
- 2. Alterations of the time or room are possible, so please check for facility or start time changes each month.*

Questions or comments about this meeting schedule may be directed to the FCGMA Clerk of the Board, by calling (805) 654-2014.

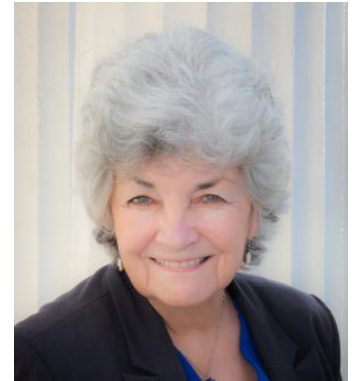
Crop Year 2020-2021 Preliminary Rainfall Data in Inches (5 Station Average)

Preliminary Rainfall Year Type is **DRY** for the 2020/21 Crop Year



Welcome County Supervisor Carmen Ramirez

On January 5, 2021, Carmen Ramirez began her four year term as Ventura County Supervisor for District 5. On January 12, 2021 she was appointed to the Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency Board of Directors representing the Ventura County Board of Supervisors seat. During her previous ten years on Oxnard City Council, she also served on many regional



organizations including the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Economic Collaborative, and the Southern California Association of Governments. Graduating from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles in 1974, she began a career as a legal aid attorney for twenty years primarily in Oxnard, and then for the Ventura County Superior Court as the Coordinator of the Self Help Legal Access Center located in La Colonia of Oxnard. She served as president of the Ventura County Bar Association in 1998, was an elected member of the State Bar Board of Governors from 2005 through 2008 and has had a private law practice specializing in consumer and social security law since 2007. She is a board member for Water Education for Latino Leaders and the Center for Civic Education. Please help us welcome Supervisor Ramirez.

© 2021 FCGMA. Fox Canyon Groundwater Management Agency welcomes suggestions on how to improve our newsletter and will strive to correct any errors as they are pointed out to us. The Agency does not assume any responsibility or liability for inaccuracies, errors or omissions which may be contained herein.

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